

Introducing **ESPON** and the new **ESPON 2030** Programme

The ESPON Programme



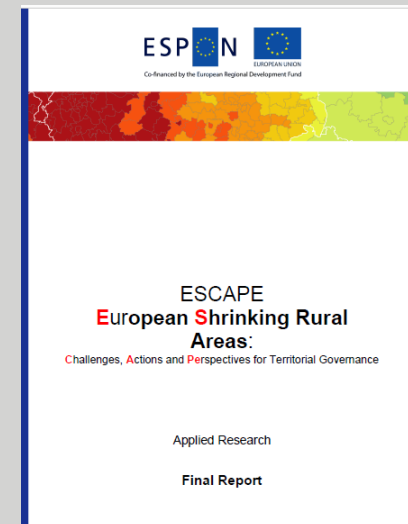
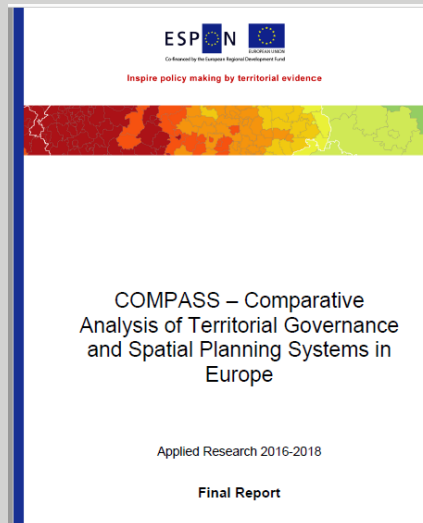
About ESPON

- ESPON was established in 2002 and aims at promoting a territorial and spatial dimension in European policy making.
- Funded through the ERDF/Cohesion Policy
- Geographical coverage – all 27 member states + 4 partner states (Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Iceland)
- Primary target groups:
 - Policymakers at European, national and regional level.
 - Policy “enablers” (policy officers, thematic experts)
 - Scientists and Researchers
- Current Monitoring Committee Member: David Kelly (Southern Regional Assembly)
- Maynooth University serves as ESPON Contact Point for Ireland – key role in disseminating information, undertaking outreach etc.

Specific Objectives

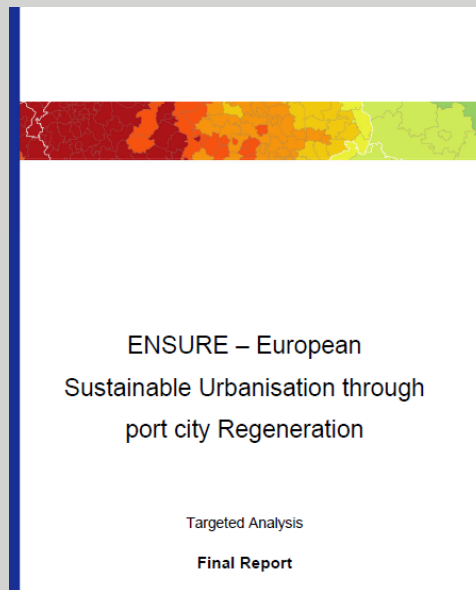
ESPON is not a capital spend programme. It is primarily a research programme with research tailored to policy needs and processes

1. Applied research – analysing territorial trends across Europe e.g. demography, poverty, accessibility etc



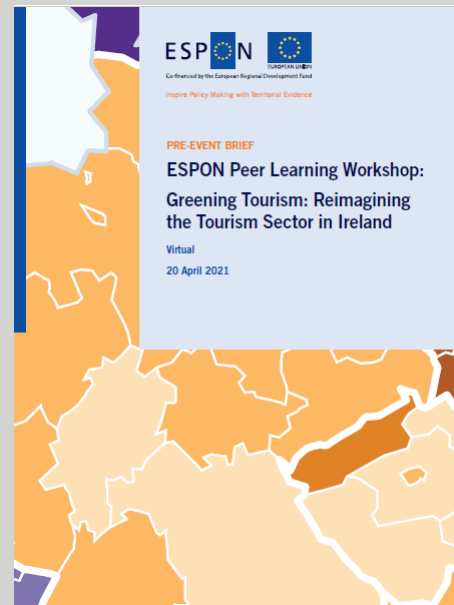
Key Objectives (cont.)

2. Targeted Analysis – Bottom-up/stakeholder driven projects with an emphasis on considering shared challenges through knowledge transfer



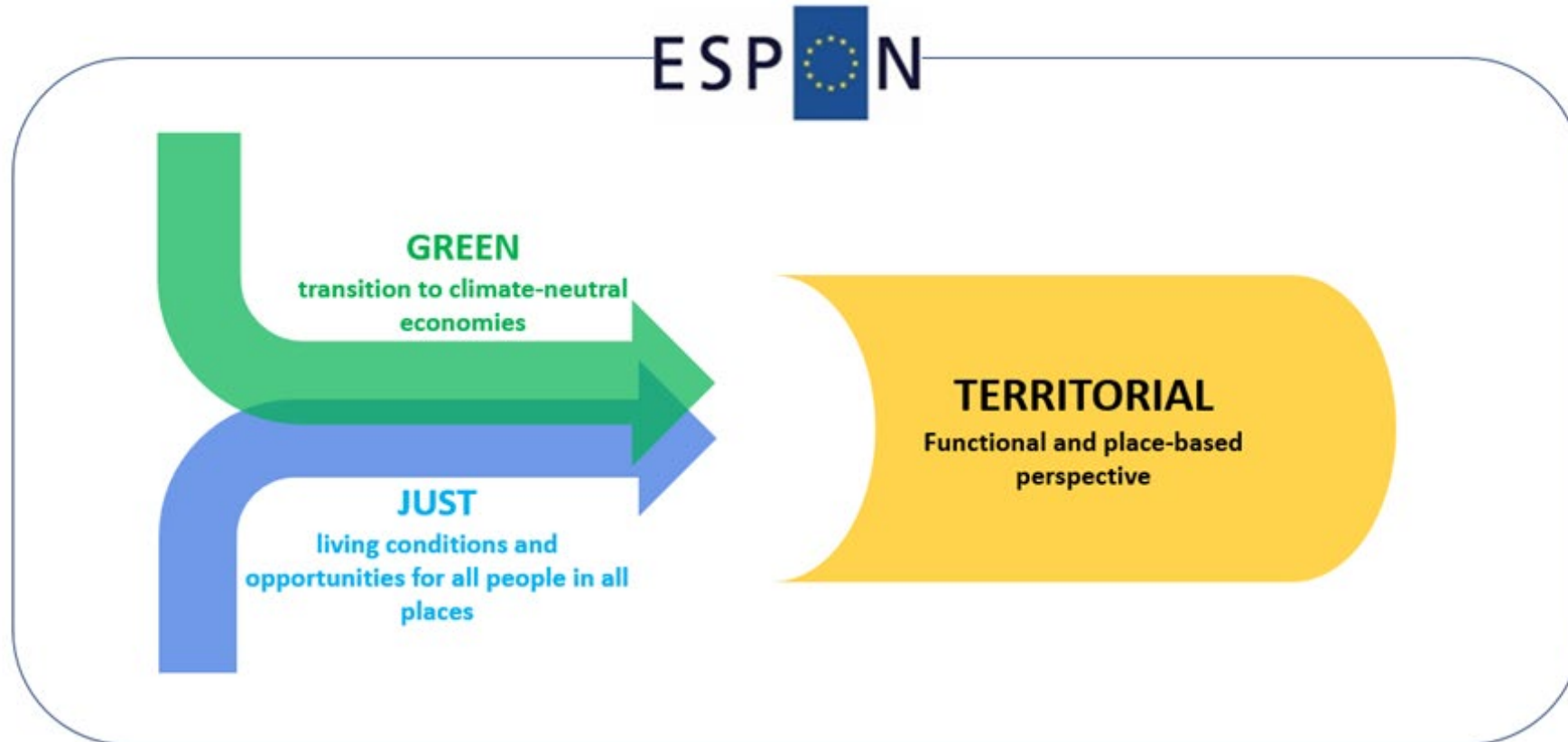
Key Objectives (cont.)

3. Transnational Outreach – Aimed at boosting the awareness and use of European territorial evidence e.g., through events, production of publications, etc.

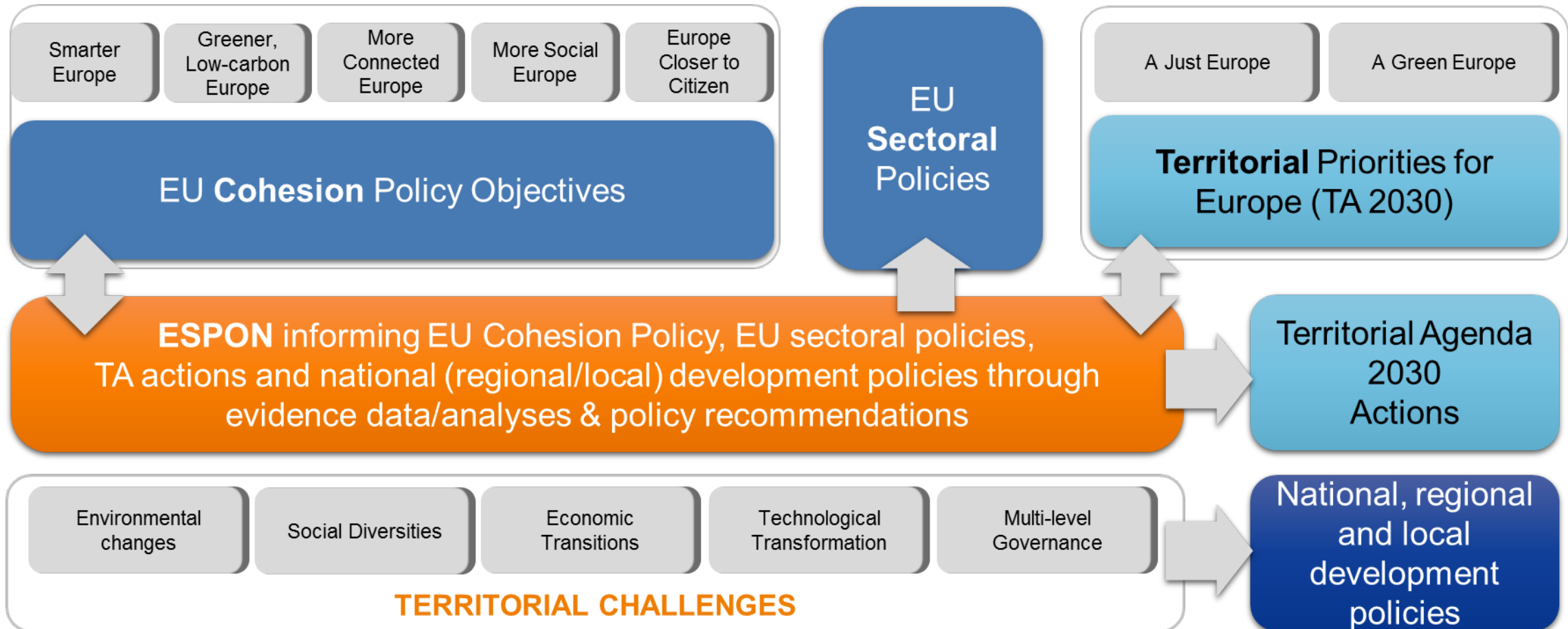


The new ESPON 2030 Programme

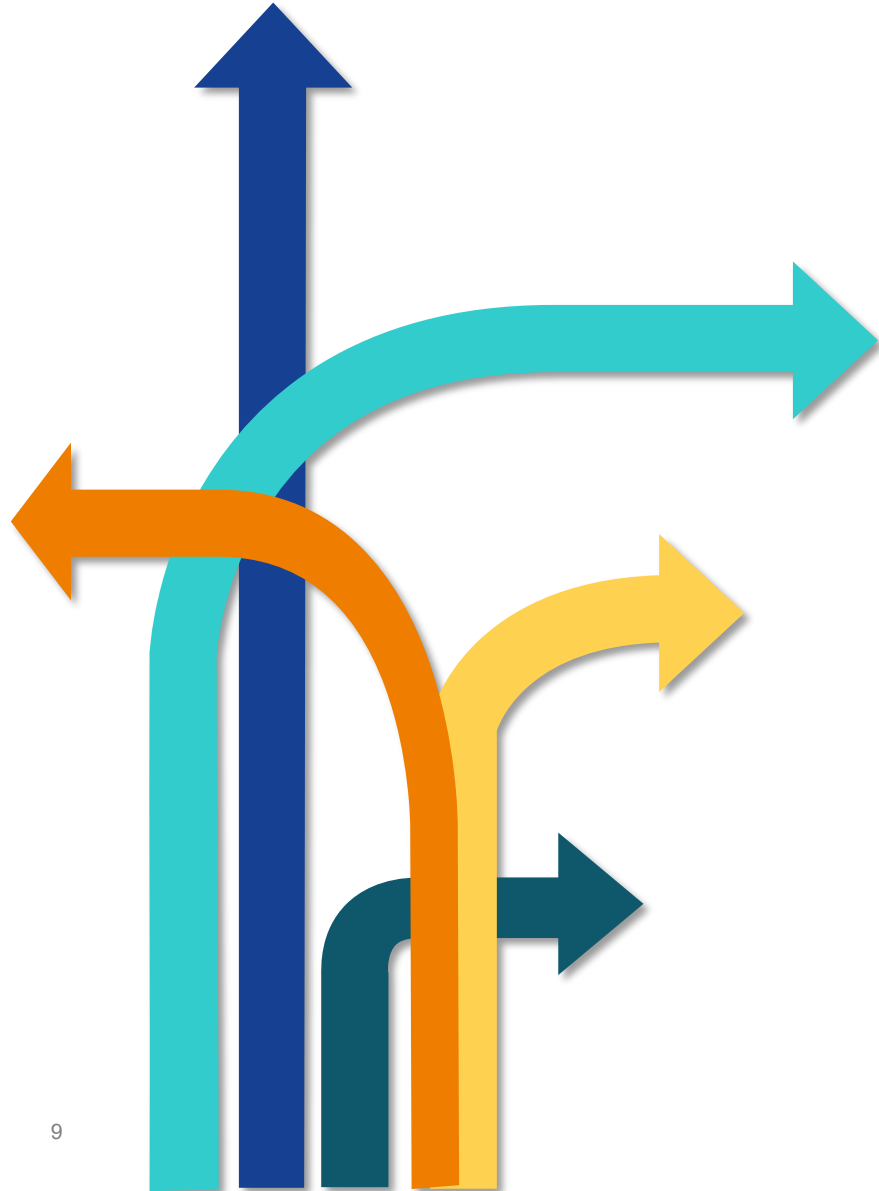
ESPON  provides territorial evidence to support stakeholders at all levels in achieving green transition to climate-neutral economies while ensuring at the same time just living conditions for all people in all places



Policy context for the ESPON Programme



The ESPON 2030 Programme



A more strategic approach via thematic work streams called: **“Thematic Action Plans”**

Complemented by a series of cross-cutting **“Horizontal Activities”**

Expected to be approved in the first semester of 2022



Thematic Action Plans

**The TAP is
a strategic
document
describing:**

Specific territorial trends and drivers

that policy making will have to address in the specific thematic field

The available territorial evidence

including data or research methodologies, existing and that could
Constitute a starting point

The additional evidence gaps

that ESPON should be suited to fill

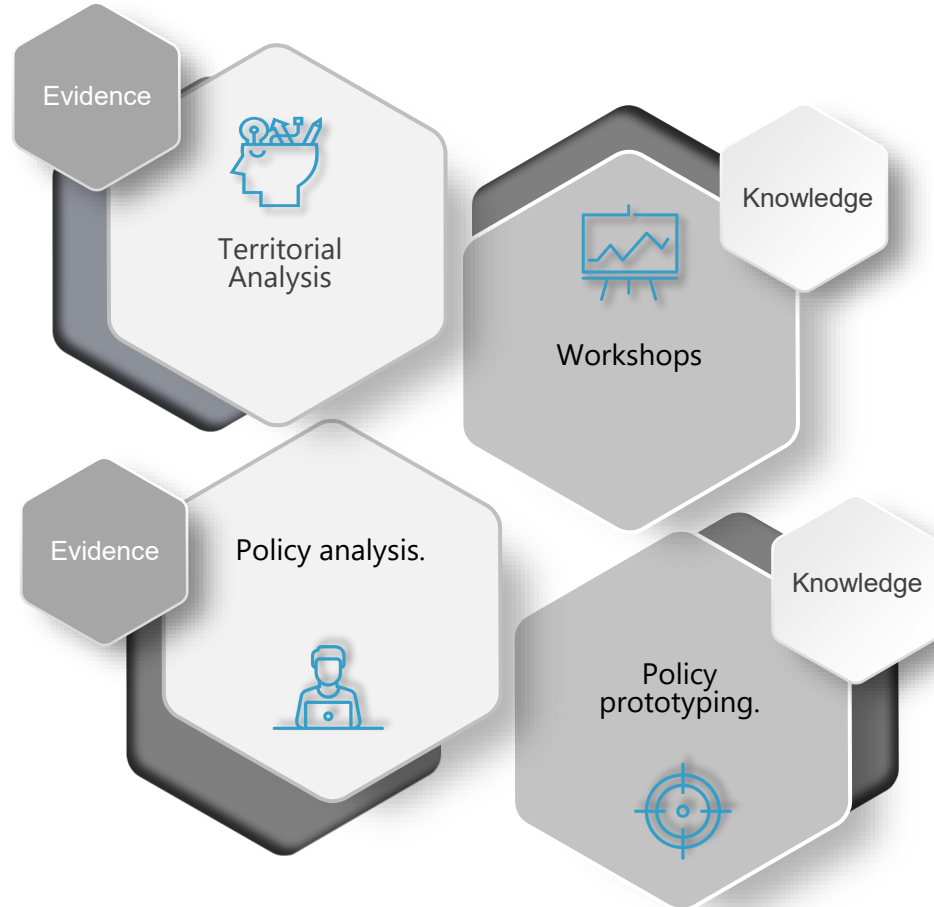
The knowledge gaps among policy makers at all levels

that prevent them from delivering effective policy response

Some major thematic activities

to bring the evidence to the policy makers and transfer
it into actionable knowledge

Thematic Action Plans



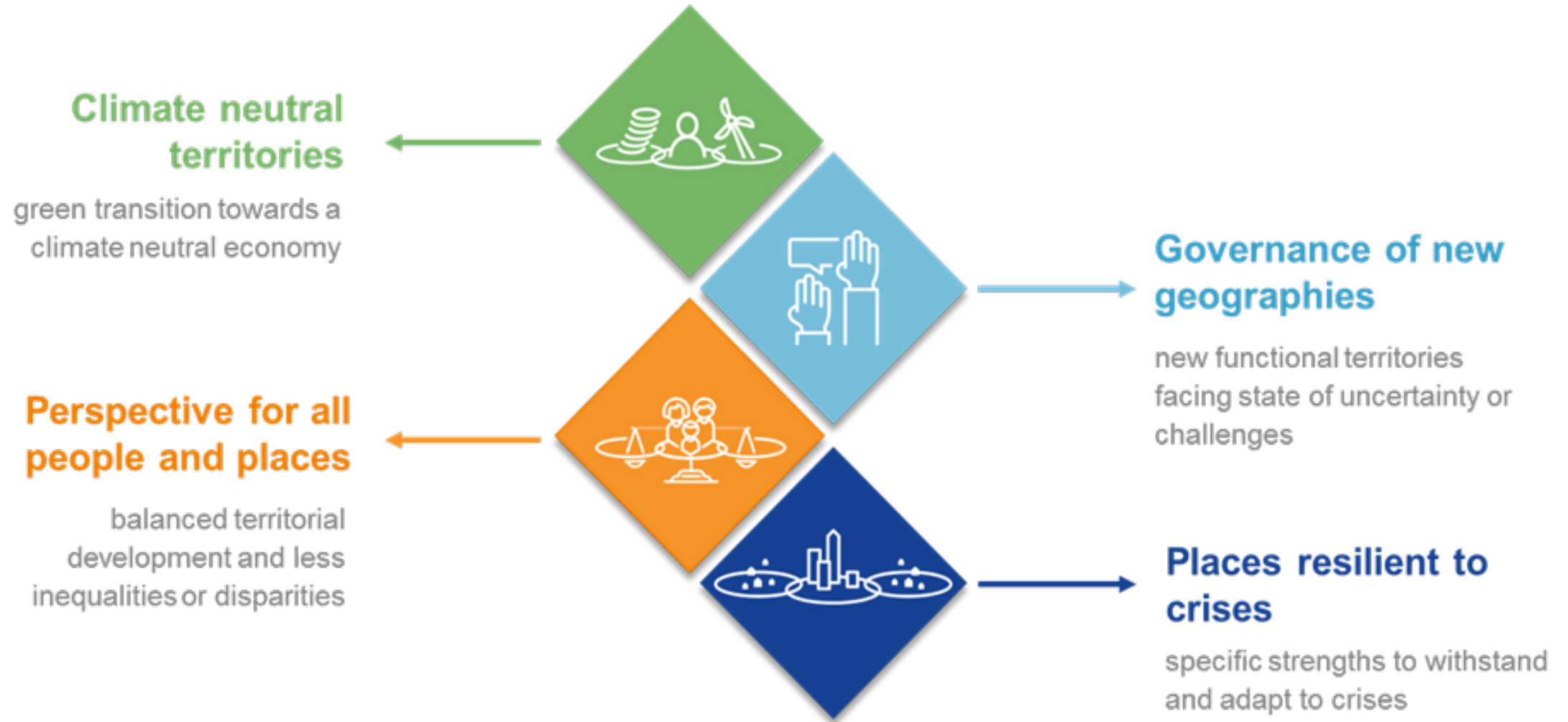
TAPs are composed of several activities

On one side, the activities related to the production of **evidence** (such as European-wide projects, targeted analyses, case studies, data, maps etc.)

On the other side, the activities related to the **knowledge development**, intended to deliver the evidence to the policy makers

Thematic Action Plan (TAP)

Initial Focus



Consultation process ...



30
Nov.
2021

Kick-off of the consultation process

31
Jan.
2022

Deadline for online feedback and discussion

28
Feb.
2022

**Stocktaking of the inputs received
and exchange with focus groups**

... and follow up

Follow up depending on the approval process
of the ESPON 2030 Programme:



Second
Trimester
2022

TAP finalised and submitted for approval

Second
Semester
2022

Foreseen launch of activities of each TAP

// **Thank you**

[stay connected: www.espon.eu]